

MISSISSIPPI WIRELESS COMMUNICATION COMMISSION

October 1, 2009 Meeting Minutes

Place: MDOT Auditorium

Commission Members Present:

**MS Department of Corrections
MS Emergency Management Agency
MS Department of Public Safety
MS National Guard
MS Association of Supervisors
MS Department of Environmental Quality
MS Department of Transportation
MS Association of Fire Chiefs
MS Office of Homeland Security
MS Department of Information Technology Services
MS Department of Health
Safe City Initiative
MS Association of Police Chiefs
MS Municipal League**

**Chris Epps
Kent Buckley
Michael Berthay
William Freeman
Steve Gray
Keith Harkins
Willie Huff
Tom Lariviere
Jay Ledbetter
David Litchliter
Mike Lucius
Joseph McArthur
Jimmy Houston
Quincy Mukoro**

Advisory Members Present:

**Senate Public Utilities Committee, Vice Chairman
House Public Utilities Committee, Chairman
Senate Appropriations Committee, Chairman
Senate Public Utilities Committee, Chairman
House Ways & Means Committee
House Public Utilities Committee, Chairman**

**Senator Nickey Browning
Representative Tyrone Ellis
Senator Dean Kirby
Senator Nolan Mettetal
Representative Willie Perkins
Representative Ray Rogers**

Chairman Epps called the meeting to order at approximately 1:30 PM and welcomed everyone. He noted the presence of Representative Willie Perkins who is sitting in for Chairman Percy Watson. He welcomed a new Commission member, Chief Jimmy Houston of the Ridgeland Police Department, who is representing the MS Association of Police Chiefs.

Chairman Epps recognized Mr. Mike Murphy of GSRCPi who then introduced Mr. Chuck Murph who is the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator for the state of Alabama and Ms. Daphne Levenson who is the Director of GSRCPi. Ms. Levenson spoke briefly about the upcoming 3rd Annual Gulf States Technical Summit being held in Mobile, AL, October 27-29, 2009. Topics of discussion and presentations will include: Narrow banding; Lessons Learned – Implementing State-wide Interoperability Systems; and FL, GA, TN, TX, and AR are being invited to join the Interoperability Partnership. The Assistant Chief and Captain from Olive Branch, MS, will provide a presentation on setting up central networking incorporating the use of web-based technology such as Twitter and FaceBook.

Chairman Epps called for a motion to approve the minutes of the September 3, 2009, meeting. General William Freeman made the motion and it was seconded by Steve Gray. The motion passed with none opposed.

Chairman Epps recognized Keith Harkins to report for the Procurement Review Committee. Mr. Harkins reported that no requests came before the Committee this month. The Mississippi Forestry Commission submitted a request which was later withdrawn.

Willie Huff reported for the Governance/Interoperability Committee. Mr. Huff stated that fifty-four grant requests (letters of intent) have been received. Forty-five of those were received by the April 3, 2009, deadline and all forty-five of those agencies have had technical visits. Four technical visits remain to be done out of the nine that did not meet the deadline. To date, fifteen PSIC grants have been awarded while thirty grants are awaiting the completion of paperwork.

Chairman Epps recognized Mike Lucius to report for the Revenue Committee. Mr. Lucius noted that the Revenue Committee had no report other than the result of the meeting with Treasury which Mr. Roach would report on. Mr. Roach reported that David Johnson of ITS and he met with the State Treasurer. Treasury will issue the \$35M dollars in bonds that the Legislature approved in the last session and hopes to have those funds available early in November.

Chairman Epps recognized Bill Roach to provide the MSWIN Project Update. Mr. Roach shared that an Interstate Interoperability meeting with representatives from MS, LA, and AL was held that morning. Mississippi has equipment installed on three towers located in the boot heel of the State and it works. The part that is not established is the switch to switch/master site to master site between MEMA EOC and the EOC in Baton Rouge so that we can talk on command level as well as talk group level. Mississippi is also interested in establishing interoperability on both the route I-10 and I-20 corridor into AL and LA. This is an ongoing initiative.

Mr. Roach stated that while we wait for approval to spend FEMA funds, we are only completing construction that was already underway. As of September 30, 2009, we have microwave connectivity from Jackson to the Coast. We will move forward with due diligence on sites from Jackson northward using FEMA's new requirements for Environmental and Historical Preservation. We have to produce packets for them on all new sites using their requirements.

Mr. Roach's powerpoint presentation and handouts showed the current status of the build-out of the system noting that the Southern Phase – 44 sites, has 43 sites in Wide Area Trunking and 1 tower currently under construction; the Central Phase – 52 Sites, has all 14 towers in Phase 2A complete, Phase 2B sites are in due diligence, Phase 2C and 2D candidate sites have been identified; Northern Phase – 47 Sites, all 47 candidate sites have been identified.

Training for driving teams for Phase I Coverage ATP will be held on October 15, 2009, at 10:30 AM at the Motorola Project office with testing taking place October 19, 2009 thru November 20, 2009. The WCC has accepted delivery of 792 subscriber units from the Phase I allocation of the MSWIN contract. Mobile radios are slated to be available in the November to December time frame and the WCC will take delivery of mobiles at that time. The acceptance of Phase 1 is still expected to take place at the end of this year. At that time, we will be ready to load the system with MDOT, MHP, and whoever wants to come on the system at the first of the year.

Information on twenty-two Phase 1 sites has already been sent to FEMA for re-analysis and we are waiting to hear evaluation comments from FEMA. Nineteen more will be sent when we get their approval. Within a week or so, all sites in Phase 1 will be submitted for re-analysis. FEMA has given no indication of how long the re-analysis will take.

Mr. Huff asked what work has stopped because of the need for FEMA approval. Mr. Roach noted that all construction, except for finishing those sites already under construction has ceased and Motorola was asked to not continue with any due diligence until we had an indication of when bond funds would be available. Now that we know those funds will be available the first of November, they can continue with due diligence on the remainder of Phase 2 and Phase 3 sites. Mr. Roach also noted that we are about 60 – 90 days behind where we would have been if FEMA funds had continued to be available.

Mr. David Litchliter provided a report on the monthly expenditures. He noted that both the DPS Subgrant and the 2007 SB3201-2008 Issue of Bond Funds have been fully expended. Approximately \$7.5M dollars of the 2007 SB3201-2008 Issue of Bond Funds has been spent and the PSIC Grant funds are not directly available to the MSWIN project. MSIC Grant money is currently on hold pending approval to spend FEMA funds. Approximately \$7.1M dollars of the first \$20M dollars was expended before FEMA requested a halt in spending. No funds from the second \$20M dollar MSIC Grant has been spent. Congressional approval of \$100M dollars out of redefined Katrina money has been given and those funds along with the \$35M dollars in Bond

Funds approved by the Mississippi Legislature in the last session should take us through the end of the project. At this time we have sufficient approved funds but no approval to spend. We are currently holding approximately \$8M dollars in outstanding Motorola invoices which are Phase 1 related and the majority of those are over 45 days old. The \$2.4M dollars out of the second bond from the Legislature is being used for monthly expenditures. Monthly expenses for September were approximately \$3.8M dollars.

There was no other business to be discussed.

The next meeting will be November 5, 2009, in the MDOT Auditorium at 1:30 PM.

David Litchliter made a motion to adjourn and Quincy Mukoro seconded the motion. The motion passed with none opposed. Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:10 PM.